



Mackenzie Valley
Environmental Impact
Review Board

IN THE MATTER OF: Environmental Assessment EA0506-006: *Sidon International Resources Corporation Mineral Exploration Program* pursuant to the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act.

AND IN THE MATTER OF: A Request for Ruling to the MVEIRB from the Yellowknives Dene First Nation asking that the public records of EA03-006 [Snowfield Development Corp], EA03-004 [New Shoshoni Ventures], EA03-003 [North American General Resources Corp] and EA03-002 [Consolidated GoldWin Ventures] be placed on the EA0506-006 public registry.

REASONS FOR DECISION

BACKGROUND:

On December 18, 2006, the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) submitted its Information Request responses to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board). The submission noted that four environmental assessments (EAs) were completed “*whose scope of assessment, including cumulative impacts, covers most of the areas likely affected by the current developments undergoing environmental assessment.*” The completed EAs named by the YKDFN were:

1. Snowfield Development Corp – Drybones Bay mineral exploration – EA03-006 [2003]
2. New Shoshoni Ventures – Drybones Bay mineral exploration – EA03-004 [2003]
3. North American General Resources Corp. – Wool exploration drilling – EA03-002 [2003]
4. Consolidated Goldwin Ventures – Drybones Bay Preliminary Exploration – EA03-002 [2003]

The YKDFN submission stated that because “*the significance of the waters and lands along Great Slave Lake and inland was emphatically communicated throughout these EA proceedings*”, the YKDFN was seeking an MVEIRB order to have the public records of the four referenced environmental assessments placed on the EA0506-006 public registry.

The Review Board resolved to treat the YKDFN's submission as a Request for Ruling, which would be dealt with in accordance to the Review Board's Rules of Procedure for Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Review Proceedings. On December 22, 2006, the Review Board invited comments from interested parties on the Request for Ruling and set a submission deadline of January 15, 2007. Only the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs (INAC) responded to the Review Board on this matter.

THE POSITION OF THE PARTIES:

INAC's submission noted that incorporating the entire four previous EA records would require all parties to review a considerable volume of information prior to the proposed pre-hearing conference (originally set for February 6, 2007). INAC further suggested that the YKDFN or the Review Board consider identifying documents from the previous EA public records which would be most relevant to the current assessment. INAC's submission noted that such documents could then be added to the registry if required.

ANALYSIS:

While the public records for those referenced EAs may contain documents that are relevant to the current assessment, it is unlikely that those public records *in their entirety* are relevant to the current EA. The Review Board is of the opinion that the YKDFN's request to insert the entire past public records into the EA0506-006 public registry does not contribute to focusing this proceeding on relevant information and may instead impede a proper determination by the Review Board.

Instead of transferring the public records of the referenced EAs into the current registry, a more selective and efficient option would be for parties, or members of the public, to identify what specific material from the past EA records they would like to have considered by the Review Board and placed on the EA0506-006 registry. The parties or members of the public should identify the particular records and provide reasons for their inclusion.

Additionally, the Review Board has over the last two years dedicated considerable resources to digitize much of the materials included in the public records of past EAs. These records are accessible through its website at www.mveirb.nt.ca.

DECISION:

It is the decision of the Review Board that the public records from the four referenced past environmental assessments not be transferred in their entirety into the EA0506-006 public registry. In order to incorporate previous public record documents into the current assessment, parties and members of the public must identify the specific documents of interest within the records and provide a written explanation of why they believe the

inclusion of each document is relevant to the current EA. This correspondence should be directed to the Environmental Assessment Office responsible for this EA.

DATED: February 7th, 2007

For the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board:

Gabrielle Mackenzie-Scott

Ms. Gabrielle Mackenzie-Scott
Chairperson